From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech, Presented by the Auto Alliance: Facebook Blocks 115 Potentially Foreign-Linked Accounts Ahead of Midterms
Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 5:50:56 AM

By Edward Graham

Top Stories

- Facebook Inc. announced in a blog post that it blocked approximately 115 user accounts on its platform after U.S. law enforcement officials alerted the social media company to suspicious behavior that was potentially linked to a foreign entity. Facebook, which made the announcement just hours before midterm voting began, said it needs to conduct further analysis to determine if the accounts were linked to Russia's Internet Research Agency or another foreign group. (Reuters)

- Amazon.com Inc. employees concerned about the company's sale of facial recognition software to law enforcement agencies are hoping to pressure Amazon management about the online firm's practices during an all-staff

meeting Thursday, according to an email seen by reporters, with workers opposed to the company's practices encouraging their colleagues to submit questions on the topic in order to have their concerns addressed by Chief Executive Jeff Bezos or other top Amazon executives. (Recode)

- AT&T Inc. plans to alert more than a dozen customers over the next week that their service will be terminated because of copyright infringement, according to sources familiar with the company's plans, the first time the telecom firm has discontinued customer service because of piracy allegations since it shaped its own policies on the subject last year. (Axios)

Chart Review

Left-Leaning Groups Drop $10 Million on Facebook in Last Week Before Midterms
Morning Consult

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

TUESDAY

FTC hearings on privacy, big data and competition	9:10 a.m.
NTIA multistakeholder meeting on promoting software component transparency	10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

FTC hearings on privacy, big data and competition	9 a.m.

FCBA CLE on Carpenter ruling and Fourth Amendment	12 p.m.

THURSDAY

FTC hearings on privacy, big data and competition	9 a.m.
Washington Post Live event on the promise of new technologies, how public policy can keep up with them and if the U.S. tech sector is positioned to compete globally	9 a.m.
Next Century Cities and Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel's "Connected New England"	9 a.m.
Hudson Institute event on the intersection of space policy and the FCC	11:30 a.m.

FRIDAY

Free State Foundation book discussion, "A Reader on Net Neutrality and Restoring Internet Freedom"	11:45 a.m.

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General

SoftBank CEO Denounces Khashoggi Killing But Says Firm Will Keep Saudi Partnership
Mayumi Negishi and Phred Dvorak, The Wall Street Journal

The chief executive of SoftBank Group Corp. denounced the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi but said it wouldn't affect his company's current ties to the kingdom, which helps bankroll his largest-in-the-world technology-investment fund. Last month's killing of Mr. Khashoggi has raised political risks for SoftBank, which operates the Vision Fund, backed by a $45 billion commitment from Saudi Arabia.

Foxconn Considers Bringing Chinese Personnel to Wisconsin as U.S. Labor Market Tightens
Yang Jie et al., The Wall Street Journal

Foxconn Technology Group is considering bringing in personnel from China to help staff a large facility under construction in southern Wisconsin as it struggles to find engineers and other workers in one of the tightest labor markets in the U.S. The company, the Taiwanese supplier to Apple Inc., has been trying to tap Chinese engineers through internal transfers to supplement staffing for the Wisconsin plant, according to people familiar with the matter.

Top Facebook, Apple and Google executives have donated little in the 2018 midterms, despite two years of Trump clashes
Tony Romm, The Washington Post

The top executives at Apple, Facebook, Google and Microsoft have stayed on the political sidelines during the 2018 midterm elections, opting not to donate to federal candidates who might advance Silicon Valley's political agenda - or battle back President Trump. Two years ago, these tech leaders emerged as some of Trump's biggest critics, challenging his administration publicly on issues including immigration, climate change and gender equality.

Another Use for A.I.: Finding Millions of Unregistered Voters
Steve Lohr, The New York Times

The mechanics of elections that attract the most attention are casting and counting, snafus with voting machines and ballots and allegations of hacking and fraud. But Jeff Jonas, a prominent data scientist, is focused on something else: the integrity, updating and expansion of voter rolls.

U.S. Futures Slip With European Stocks; Oil Drops: Markets Wrap
Samuel Potter, Bloomberg

It was a mixed picture across global stock markets on Tuesday, with investors seemingly entering a holding pattern as they await the U.S. midterm elections. European equities turned lower alongside American futures while Asian shares advanced.

Intellectual Property and Antitrust

EU states divided over digital tax, fear U.S. retaliation
Francesco Guarascio, Reuters

EU governments are divided over a plan to tax big internet firms like Google and Facebook on their turnover, fearing retaliation from the United States, and could delay its application until a global deal is reached, top officials said on Tuesday. Under a proposal from the EU's executive Commission in March, EU states would charge a 3 percent levy on the digital revenues of large firms that are accused of averting tax by routing their profits to the bloc's low-tax states.

Telecom, Wireless and TV

FCC will 'take action' in 2019 if carriers aren't doing enough to fight robocalls
Chris Welch, The Verge

Ajit Pai and the FCC's commissioners are growing as incensed and fed up with robocalls as the rest of us. Today, Pai sent a letter to over a dozen US mobile providers urging them to deploy an industry-wide method of combatting the automated nuisance calls - or else.

How 'net neutrality' became a hot-button issue
Mae Anderson, The Associated Press

For a fundamentally nerdy subject, net neutrality is pushing a lot of political buttons. The latest salvo is over a California law that restores a ban on cable, wireless and other broadband providers from impeding people's ability to use their favorite apps and services.

FCC Grants Acccessibility Waivers ACA Sought
John Eggerton, Broadcasting and Cable

The FCC has granted some smaller cable operators waivers from its user interface rules implementing the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA). CVAA requires communications to be accessible to the sight- or hearing-impaired.

Mobile Technology and Social Media

There's a bustling cottage industry of Donald Trump fan pages on Facebook. Here's how some of the biggest ones make a living.
April Glaser, Slate

When Donald Trump announced his presidential campaign in June 2015, Clayton Keirns, now 29, saw an opportunity. "I was business-minded and kind of conservative, and I was like, wow, this is something I've never seen before," Keirns said in an interview this summer, describing how he started a Facebook page called Donald Trump for President to "see what happens."

Twitter Says It Is Ready for the Midterms, but Rogue Accounts Aren't Letting Up
Kate Conger and Adam Satariano, The New York Times

Twitter created a team to automatically seek out suspicious activity, like thousands of messages intended to suppress the vote. It began coordinating closely with the Department of Homeland Security. And it recently introduced a tool to help people more easily report misleading tweets.

Bird Launches London Pilot to Win Support for U.K. Scooters
Nate Lanxon, Bloomberg

U.S. electric-scooter giant Bird Rides Inc. has begun a limited pilot of its service in London-a city where the use of scooters on public roads is illegal. Bird's pilot won't fall foul of the law however, as the scooters will only be available for use on private land.

Alex Jones banned from Facebook? His videos are still there - and so are his followers
Craig Timberg, The Washington Post

Infowars is gone from Facebook after a high-profile showdown over the summer between Silicon Valley and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones. But another Facebook page, NewsWars, has taken its place - and Jones's many fans have followed.

Social media growth is over in the U.S. - which is its most valuable market
Rani Molla and Kurt Wagner, Recode

Social media companies aren't growing as quickly as they used to. In some cases, they aren't growing at all.

Facebook launches retail pop-up stores ahead of holiday season
Julia Alexander, The Verge

Facebook is gearing up for the holiday season by launching a small number of pop-up shops around the United States. The company announced today that it will open pop-ups with more than 100 brands in nine different Macy's locations.

Facebook says it should do more to help prevent violence in Myanmar
Steven Musil, CNET

Facebook said Monday that an independent report it commissioned found the company hasn't always done enough to prevent its platform from being used to spread hate speech that has fueled deadly violence in Myanmar.

Cybersecurity and Privacy

Georgia Officials Quietly Patched Security Holes They Said Didn't Exist
Jack Gillum et al., ProPublica and Georgia Public Broadcasting

On Sunday morning, Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp unleashed a stunning allegation: State Democrats had committed "possible cyber crimes" after a tipster told party officials he had found gaping security holes in the state's voter information website. The affair quickly degenerated into volleying charges about whether Democrats had promptly informed officials of the

possible security breach.

Voting Machine Manual Instructed Election Officials to Use Weak Passwords

Kim Zetter, Motherboard

States and counties have had two years since the 2016 presidential election to educate themselves about security best practices and to fix security vulnerabilities in their election systems and processes. But despite widespread concerns about election interference from state-sponsored hackers in Russia and elsewhere, apparently not everyone received the memo about security, or read it.

Cathay Pacific Data Breach Probed by Hong Kong's Watchdog

Kyunghee Park, Bloomberg

Hong Kong's privacy watchdog is investigating Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. after the carrier last month disclosed the world's biggest airline data breach that exposed personal information of 9.4 million customers. The compliance probe will examine security measures taken by Cathay Pacific to safeguard its customers' private data and the airline's information retention policy and practice, the city's Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data Stephen Kai-yi Wong said in a statement late Monday.

Facebook referred to key EU regulator over targeting techniques

Kate Holton, Reuters

Britain's Information Commissioner has referred Facebook to Ireland's data watchdog, the lead authority for the social network under Europe's strict data law, over issues regarding the way it targeted and monitored its users. Britain's Information Commissioner has been investigating how Facebook handled personal data after a consultancy Cambridge Analytica was accused of improperly harvesting information from around 87 million users on the social network.

Chinese 'gait recognition' tech IDs people by how they walk

Dake Kang, The Associated Press

Chinese authorities have begun deploying a new surveillance tool: "gait recognition" software that uses people's body shapes and how they walk to identify them, even when their faces are hidden from cameras. Already used by

police on the streets of Beijing and Shanghai, "gait recognition" is part of a push across China to develop artificial-intelligence and data-driven surveillance that is raising concern about how far the technology will go.

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Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

The Age of Personal Data Protections: Privacy Laws Need to Catch Up
Melissa Blaustein, Morning Consult

Since the internet has existed, it has been about sharing. Sharing pictures with our friends, sharing ideas with anyone who would listen, sharing real-time news with people around the world and, before we knew it, sharing our personal data with companies (sometimes without even realizing it).

Internet Platforms Censor Campaign Ads
Mark Epstein, The Wall Street Journal

'One of the restraints on the vitriol and the filth that so often is part of the American political debate," noted Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse in 2012, "is that candidates have to stand by their ads." For many online platforms, however, fixing your name to your claim is no longer good enough for an ad to pass muster.

It's Time for Online Voting
Alex Tapscott, The New York Times

Messing with polling stations is one of the most common voter suppression tactics. Across the country, polling stations have been closed in minority neighborhoods, had their locations changed from election to election, and have

been kept understaffed, or inaccessible, or ill-equipped, so that voters must stand in line for hours.

Artificial Intelligence Hits the Barrier of Meaning
Melanie Mitchell, The New York Times

You've probably heard that we're in the midst of an A.I. revolution. We're told that machine intelligence is progressing at an astounding rate, powered by "deep learning" algorithms that use huge amounts of data to train complicated programs knows as "neural networks."

Research Reports

Human Rights Impact Assessment: Facebook in Myanmar
Business for Social Responsibility

Facebook commissioned BSR to undertake a human rights impact assessment (HRIA) of the company's presence in Myanmar. BSR undertook this HRIA between May and September 2018, using a methodology based on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

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